

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Modernizing the E-Rate Program for	)	WC Docket No. 13-184
Schools and Libraries	)	
	)	

**Reply comments from the South Carolina State Library to the State of South Carolina's comments  
on the proposed rulemaking for the Category 2 Program**

The South Carolina State Library (State Library) firmly supports the comments of the State of South Carolina whereby extending permanently the Category 2 Program. So much so that in the state fiscal year 2019 the State Library assisted 16 county library systems with filing for Cat 2 E-Rate funds for the first time. These funding applications totaled \$1,271,159.42. The State Library recognizes that for many smaller and rural county library systems, this program is the only way that they can obtain a current, stable and secure technological environment to meet the information needs of their patrons. Our commitment to supporting public libraries in the eligibility and application process will continue to ensure they are able to utilize this program.

Additionally, the State Library supports the State of South Carolina and other commenters to:

- simplify the Category 2 application process,
- change audit practices,
- extend E-Rate eligibility to new products,
- change Category 2 multipliers and budgets,
- increase the funding floor,
- implement several administrative changes, and
- reset Category 2 budgets for all applicants.

Specifically, the State Library agrees with the State of South Carolina that library system wide Category 2 budgets will offer more flexibility to library systems and in turn simplify the application process.

The State Library agrees with the State of South Carolina that content filtering should be added to the Eligible Services List effective FY 2020.

The State Library agrees with the State of South Carolina that the category 2 budget multiplier for all libraries should be increased to \$5/square foot and the funding floor should be increased to \$30,000 per eligible library.

Lastly, the State Library agrees with the State of South Carolina that all Category 2 budgets should reset every five years because this approach will result in a more seamless transition and ultimately simplify the application process for libraries.